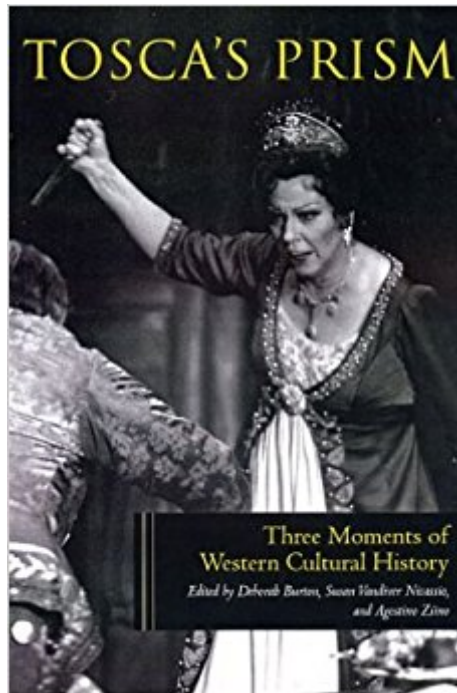




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Tosca's Prism: Three Moments In Western Cultural History



Synopsis

Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, which premiered in Rome in 1900, is one of the most popular operas in the repertory. Based on Victorien Sardou's play *La Tosca*, the enduring tale of love, lust, jealousy, and politics takes place in the specific setting and time of the Eternal City in June 1800, and draws on the historical events following the fall of the Roman republic. In this extraordinary collection, distinguished musicologists, historians, theater professionals, and luminaries of the operatic stage reflect on three diverse moments of European history - 1800, 1900, 2000 - through the refracting prism of Puccini's *Tosca*, providing multidimensional images of each period from a wide range of perspectives.

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Customer Reviews

"This collection possesses singular importance in the scholarly literature on *Tosca* with expert writers and insightful investigations. It provides a most valuable addition to the limited contemporary research on the music and times of Puccini." --The Opera Journal

Deborah Burton is Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Lecturer on Music at Harvard University. Susan Vandiver Nicassio is Associate Professor of History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the author of *Tosca's Rome: The Play and the Opera in Historical Perspective*. Agostino Ziino is Professor of Music History at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata." Julian Budden is President of the Centro Studi Giacomo Puccini

in Lucca and the author of Puccini: His Life and Works. Simonetta Puccini is President of the Istituto di Studi Pucciani in Milan.

For the non opera lover, this book may provide your "in" to opera by offering extraordinary historical details of the history of Rome during French occupation under Napoleon. Great reference book.

Collaboratively edited by Deborah Burton, Susan Vandiver Nicassio, and Agostino Ziino (all of whom are professors of music history and experts in their fields of academia), *Tosca's Prism: Three Moments Of Western Cultural History* is an anthology of scholarly essays by learned authors concerning the opera "La Tosca", a classic tale of love, lust, jealousy, and politics which first premiered in 1900 and draws upon the historical events succeeding the fall of the Roman republic. Contributed essays scrutinize La Tosca's impact and legacy with regard to circa 1800, circa 1900, and circa 2000. Extensive notes and music excerpts highlight the thoughtful discussions concerning La Tosca, ranging from "Who Is Tosca?" to "Tosca Act II and the Secret Identity of F#" to "The Protagonists and the Principal Phases of the Roman Republic of 1798 to 1799". This is an invaluable contribution to opera history, and most especially recommended for performing arts libraries, performers, and individual connoisseurs seeking to better understand La Tosca.

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